

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed April 6, 2005, claims 1-19 were pending. Claims 1, 2 and 7-19 were rejected. Claims 20 and 21 have been added. The abstract was objected to because it exceeded 150 words and used legal phraseology.

The drawings were objected to by the Examiner for failure to indicate reference characters on some of the drawings. The disclosure was objected to because of various informalities with respect to reference numerals. The specification was objected to for failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the claims subject matter such as a longitudinal slot.

Claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 9 and 10 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1, 2 and 7-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd para., for reasons indicated in the Office Action. Claims 1, 7-11, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,652 to *Darbyshire*.

Claims 2, 12-14, 16 and 17 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd para. Claim 15 was found by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd para., and to include all the limitations of the basic claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding the allowed subject matter in these claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments made below, Applicant respectfully requests that the claims are now in condition for allowance and that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the claims.

CANCELLATION OF WITHDRAWN CLAIMS

Claim 6 is cancelled. Claims 4 and 5 are reinstated being dependent upon an allowable generic claim.

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

The specification is amended to more clearly describe what is shown in the drawings. No new matter is entered, rather a sentence is rephrased.

AMENDMENT TO DRAWINGS

A replacement sheet is provided attached, having reference numerals added to FIG. 6 which point out the key, keyway, or splined coupling as recited in claims 9 and 10. Examiner's objection with respect to the lateral bore in claim 6 is now moot as claim 6 has now been cancelled for being directed to nonelected subject matter. The specification is objected to as failing to provide an antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter such as a longitudinal slot in claim 15. However, the Applicant respectfully points out that in several places in the specification, for example, at least on page 17, using reference numeral 102, the slots are referenced in the specification and in the drawings (see FIG. 11). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this specification objection to for failure to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter for a longitudinal slot be removed.

OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 8, 9, 18 and 19

Claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 are objected for various informalities such as no antecedent basis typographical errors. Amendments made to these claims obviate these objections.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. However, amendments made to the figures attached do illustrate the key, keyway, or splined line coupling and are referenced by reference numerals 38 and 38A. (See FIG. 6.) Corresponding description can be found in the specification. Applicant respectfully requests that in light of these claimed amendments, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st para., be removed with respect to claims 9 and 10.

Claims 1, 2 and 7-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. While Applicant respectfully disagrees that terms such as “connectable”, “rotatable” and “receivable” render these claims indefinite, the Applicant has made amendments to these claims to recite positive structural characteristics to alleviate the Examiner’s concerns. These amendments are made not because they are required to patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 112, but for the sole purpose of furthering prosecution and no way changes the scope of these claims. The Examiner’s other rejections outlined on page 7 of the Office Action have been obviated by amendment and remarks made herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7-11, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,652 to *Darbyshire*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Section 102 rejection is proper only if each and every element, as set forth in the claim, is found, i.e., the prior art must teach every aspect of the claim. See *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 918 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See also M.P.E.P. § 2131.

In the present case, *Darbyshire* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations as set forth in the claims. For example, claim 1, and thus its dependent claims, recite a combination, including “the spindle having two oppositely handed, threaded portions longitudinally spaced from each other with respect to an axis the spindle rotates about of which a first threaded portion is nearer to the first end and the second threaded portion is nearer to the second end [of the housing]”. In contrast, *Darbyshire* describes a spindle 10 having interior and exterior threads. Therefore, the two threaded portions are not longitudinally spaced with respect to the spindle’s rotational axis, but rather radially spaced. Further, it is not possible for the two threaded portions of the spindle of *Darbyshire* to be near one end of the housing and the other threaded portion to be near another end of the housing since the two housing ends are longitudinally opposed from each other with respect to the spindle’s axis of rotation. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submit that claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentably distinct from

Darbyshire, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be of claim 1, and its dependent claims in view of *Darbyshire*, be removed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that all the objections and rejections to the claims be removed and that the claims pass to allowance. If for any reason the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1792 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned Attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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